

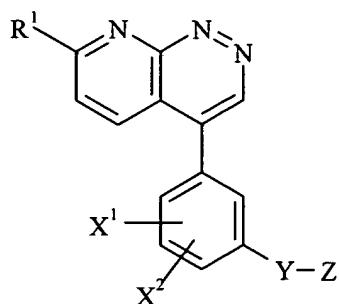
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 11-19 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 20-27. This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (new) A compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



wherein:

X¹ represents hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C₁₋₆ alkoxy;

X² represents hydrogen or halogen;

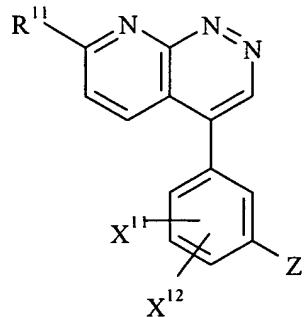
Y represents a chemical bond, an oxygen atom, or a -NH- linkage;

Z represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group;

R¹ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, dihalo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, dihydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl or -CR⁴=NOR⁵;

R^a and R^b independently represent hydrogen, or a heterocyclic group.

21. (new) The compound of Claim 20 of the formula IIA:



(IIA)

wherein:

X¹¹ represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy;

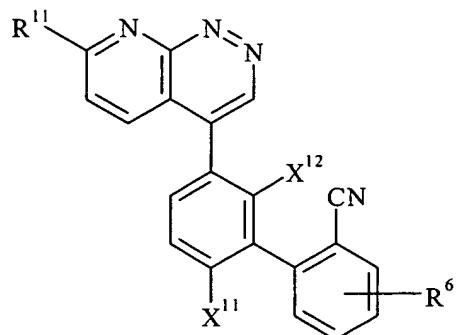
X¹² represents hydrogen or fluoro;

R¹¹ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, halo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, dihalo(C₁₋₆)alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, dihydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, di(C₁₋₆)alkoxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl, cyano(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₆ alkyl-heteroaryl, heteroaryl(C₁₋₆)alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, formyl, C₂₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, C₂₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl or -CR⁴=NOR⁵;

R⁴ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl; and

R⁵ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkyl, hydroxy(C₁₋₆)alkyl or di(C₁₋₆)alkylamino(C₁₋₆)alkyl.

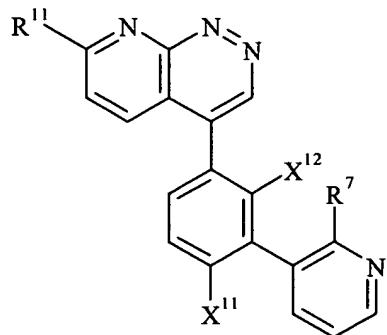
22. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IIB:



(IIB)

wherein R⁶ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

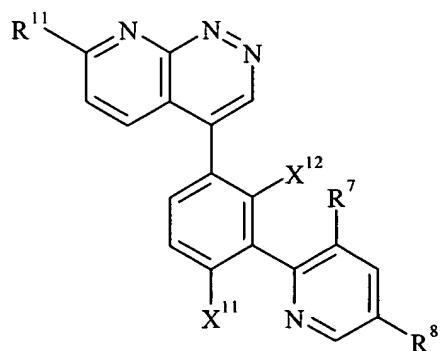
23. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IIC:



(IIC)

wherein R⁷ represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

24. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IID:



(IID)

wherein R⁸ represents hydrogen or fluoro.

25. (new) A compound which is 2'-fluoro-5'-(7-trifluoromethylpyrido[2,3-c]pyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 20, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claims 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.